

## Joint Airmen

I understand that Joint Terminal Attack Controllers are primarily stationed in Army units and must integrate into these units, but why do we have a photo of Airmen wearing the incorrect uniform on the cover [Spring 2006]?

*Airman 1st Class William Bernath  
U.S. Strategic Command*

*Editor's note:*

*The Airmen pictured on the cover are not in an "incorrect" uniform — just not the one you and I wear every day. While assigned to joint units many Airmen are required to wear Army uniforms. That is one of the main reasons we decided to highlight these particular Airmen. They have a critical skill in fighting the war on terrorism and they demonstrate vital roles that Airmen play in the joint environment. Yes, you won't see a Soldier, Sailor or Marine in an Air Force uniform because they don't wear them. They don't augment us, we augment them. It is a positive thing for the Air Force to show how we help out the other services.*



## Got Airman?

In July 2005, Airman magazine transitioned to a quarterly magazine due to a cut in funds to help support the global war on terrorism. These cuts have now affected our ability to print and ship the magazine. Though we wish we could continue providing copies to everyone, we are forced to re-examine our distribution list and make reductions. Our focus is to ensure copies are getting to our Airmen fighting the war on terrorism and supporting the war at home.

We will continue to ship magazines to bases, deployed units and other high-traffic locations where we can reach the most Airmen. The magazine will also continue to be available online at [www.af.mil/news/airman](http://www.af.mil/news/airman).

To ensure the magazine is getting into the hands of our young Airmen, please contact us if your unit is receiving a surplus, or if you have no access to them at all. Please check with your unit orderly room or public affairs office before contacting us to ensure they have copies. To decrease, increase, cancel or set up a subscription, e-mail [afnspub@afnews.af.mil](mailto:afnspub@afnews.af.mil) with the requested action, your full unit address, phone number and the number of personnel assigned.

Thank you for your continued readership!

## Clarification

In our Spring issue we highlighted one of the remaining active-duty Women in the Air Force members nearing retirement. Though active-duty

WAFs are retiring, there are numerous Guard and Reserve WAFs that remain in service.

Public Law 625, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, was passed by Congress in 1948 authorizing the enlistment and appointment of women in the regular military, specifically the Air Force.

The Women in the Air Force, WAF, was often interpreted as a separate entity, but was simply a component of the regular Air Force. The WAF had their own director to advise the chief of staff and the Air Staff on the formulation of the plans and policies for integrating women into the regular and reserve of the Air Force. In June 1976, women were accepted into the service on much the same conditions as were men, and the separate status of the WAF was abolished.

## Faux pas

Thank you for the article "Perceptive Protocol: Top 10 Cultural Faux Pas" [Spring 2006]. It was very interesting and informative. I am of Chinese descent and I wanted to add to the information about gifts given to Chinese hosts. Though it is true that gifts should be given in pairs, four is an extremely bad luck number in the Chinese culture and you should never give four of any item to your host. The reason for this is that the word for "4" sounds very close to the word for "die" or "death." Additionally, a gift of a knife or anything resembling a knife should never be given, as this signifies you would like to sever ties with the recipient of the gift.

*Jean Sun  
Via e-mail*

# Meet the chief

The distinguished list of chief master sergeants of the Air Force grew with the recent retirement of Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray. Filling the post as the 15th CMSAF is Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley. *Airman* sat down with Chief McKinley to discuss his views on becoming the top senior enlisted advisor and his goals for the Airmen he'll lead.

**Are you nervous about stepping into the job as the Air Force's enlisted leader — the guy that every Airman looks up to?**

*Absolutely I'm nervous. I'm very humbled and I look at those that served before me and how great they've been. I just hope that I can live up to half of what they have accomplished in our Air Force.*

**What excites you most about carrying out your duties as the new CMSAF?**

*The opportunity to see more Airmen. To get out there and shake their hands and look 'em in the in the eyes and tell them how much I appreciate what they're doing — fighting the war on terrorism, and upholding the freedoms and democracy for our country. It excites me to have the opportunity to speak to them personally and just say thank you.*

**Did anybody give you some words of wisdom or advice on how to handle your new job?**

*I've had advice from everybody. The best advice I think I've received is from Chief Murray, who said, "Rod, just go be yourself."*

**By being yourself, what can we expect?**

*You can expect someone that loves our Air Force, loves our country and is proud to be an Airman. I'm big on discipline, on standards, customs and courtesies, and living our core values. Not to be able to just state what they are, but live them every single day. It's those things that have molded our military to be so great.*

**Do you have any ideas yet on what you're going to do to make life easier for our Airmen?**

*I'm focused on the Air Force's three priorities — winning the war on terrorism, taking care of our Airmen and recapitalizing our inventory. So those are the most important things we have to do right now. But in order to take care of our Airmen, I want supervisors to get to know their people. To look*

*their people in the eye, talk to them, find out things about their family. And if you get to know your Airmen and their families, and what their needs are, I think the Airmen will do more for our Air Force.*

**What do think is the biggest challenge today's Airmen face?**

*I've seen a lot of change. I came in at the end of Vietnam in '74 and we were wearing 1505s — the khaki uniforms. But today, I think the biggest challenge is that a lot of our Airmen haven't really seen that much change. So the transformation we're going through now, the downsizing, the uniforms, that's quite a bit of change for Airmen. These are things that Airmen just aren't used to. But change is good, because as we change, we evolve. And the ultimate goal is not to have a smaller Air Force, but a more capable Air Force for the future.*

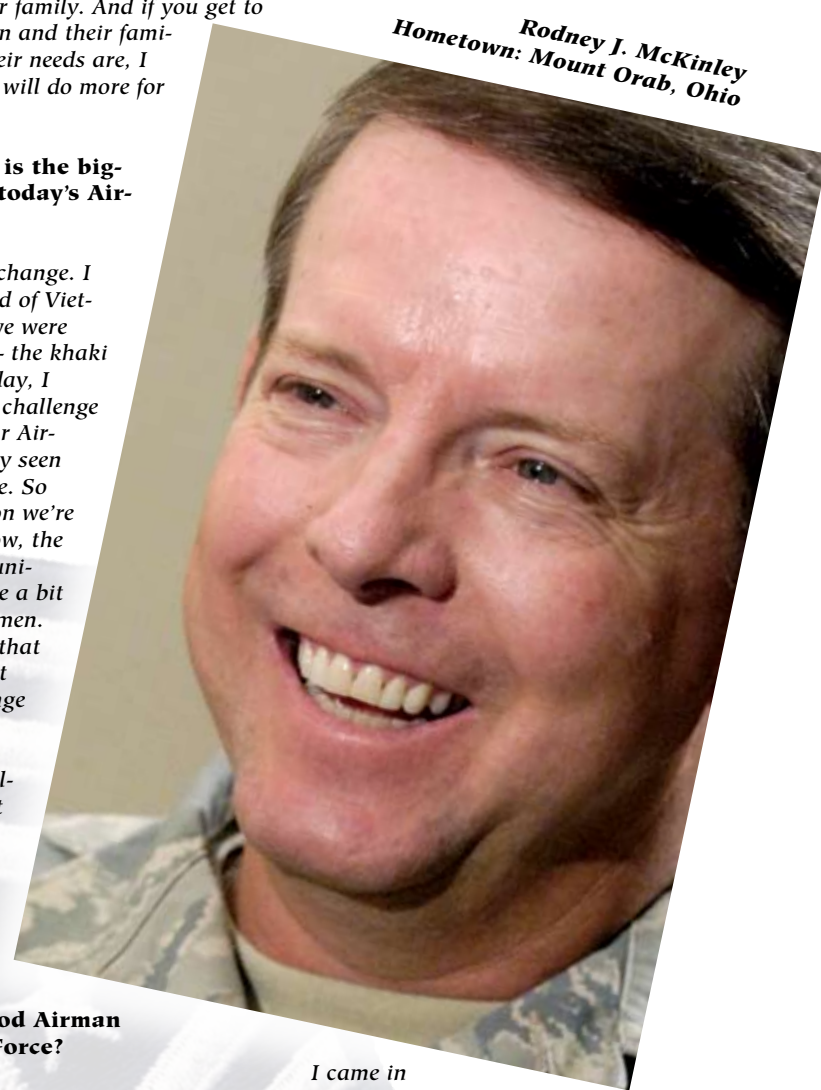
**What does it take to be a good Airman in today's Air Force?**

*I think almost everyone in today's Air Force is a good Airman. I don't think there's any one thing necessary to be a good Airman, but several things. First — learn your job, be the best at your job you possibly can, live our core values, be the whole person, get an education, be involved in unit activities and local community. Have pride in your unit, pride in our Air Force and pride in being an Airman.*

**Why should young people still consider a career in the Air Force in light of all that's going on in the world today?**

*I think the Air Force is a great opportunity for today's young adults, especially right now. There is no greater time in our country, probably since World War II, for the need of our military. We don't want terrorism inside our borders. We don't want a "home" game, we want an "away" game. We want to fight the terrorists in their land, not ours. So we can wave the flag for patriotism, but that's just one reason. There are many others. I'm a country boy from Ohio.*

*Rodney J. McKinley  
Hometown: Mount Orab, Ohio*



*I came in the Air Force with a couple of buddies and since then I've traveled the world. I've received an education and worked for my country. And it's been a great life. So, it's a great opportunity for those benefits. But right now, with what's going on in our country, I think every young person graduating high school or college should consider the military. Whether it's the Air Force or another branch of service, it should be considered because winning the war on terrorism is the most important thing going on right now for our country.*

**Did you ever think you'd become the chief master sergeant of the Air Force?**

*Heavens no. I was just trying to be a good Airman. And so, I'm very humbled to have this opportunity, to have this great responsibility to our Airmen. And I don't take the responsibility lightly. I just want to go do the very best job that I possibly can.*

*by Louis A. Arana-Barradas  
photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers*

